

## Message Text

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FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 3212 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM MOGADISCIO NAIROBI  
JUL 21.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, ET, US

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN PMAC CHAIRMAN AND AMBASSADOR  
AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

SUMMARY. EXTEMPORANEOUS AND CORDIAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN  
AMBASSADOR AND CHAIRMAN MENGISTU FOLLOWED CREDENTIALS  
PRESENTATION CEREMONY JULY 21. AMBASSADOR SAID USG WAS  
WILLING TO TRY TO FIND AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN TO DEVELOP  
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AID PROGRAMS, AND SAID THAT WHILE RE-  
COGNIZING THAT ERITREA WAS AN INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM,  
WE HOPED THAT MORE BLOODSHED COULD BE AVOIDED. HE ALSO  
TOLD CHAIRMAN OF HIS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUE OF COMPENS-  
ATION FOR NATIONALIZED AMERICAN PROPERTY. CHAIRMAN SAID  
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THAT PRESENT MILITARY ADVISORS TO PMGSE WOULD NOT AFFECT  
ETHIOPIA'S SOVEREIGNTY OR INDEPENDENCE, SAID HE LOOKED  
FORWARD TO PRIVATE, FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR,  
OFFERED FULL COOPERATION TO MAKE AMBASSADOR'S MISSION A  
SUCCESS AND ASKED AMBASSADOR TO SEND PRESIDENT CARTER HIS  
BEST WISHES. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS EXCHANGED BETWEEN CHAIRMAN OF PMAC AND OF PMGSE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LT COL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM AND AMBASSADOR AT JULY 21 PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. CHAIRMAN SPOKE IN AMHARIC, WHICH WAS TRANSLATED (BADLY) INTO ENGLISH, BUT DID NOT REQUIRE TRANSLATION INTO AMHARIC OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. SENIOR PMGSE OFFICIALS PRESENT INCLUDED PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LT COL BERHANU BAYEH, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MAJOR DAWIT WOLDE-CHIORGIS, TAYE WORKU, PLANNING COMMISSIONER, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY'S HEAD OF AMERICAS DIVISION, BERHANE DERESSA.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE TOLD CHAIRMAN THAT THE UNITED STATES, AS A FORMER COLONY WHICH WAS BORN OUT OF A REVOLUTION, COULD UNDERSTAND ETHIOPIA AND ACCEPTED A COUNTRY'S RIGHT TO CARRY OUT ITS OWN REVOLUTION. OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ASSERTED JUST SUCH A RIGHT. HE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION'S GOALS AND PROGRAMS, (NOTABLY IN AGRICULTURE AND SPECIFICALLY IN LAND REFORM) WERE PROGRAMS WHICH THE USG HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY URGED THE EMPEROR TO UNDERTAKE. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST BETWEEN THE USG AND THE PMGSE ON WHICH WE COULD COOPERATE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MOST UNDERPRIVILEGED GROUP IN ETHIOPIA, THE PEASANT CLASS.

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SANTS, WHICH MAKE UP OVER 80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND STRESSED ETHIOPIA'S RIGHT TO ITS OWN REVOLUTION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

3. THE CHAIRMAN RAISED THE REBELLION IN ERITREA ("PRESENT TROUBLES IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA") AND SAID SEVERAL TIMES IN SEVERAL WAYS THAT THIS WAS AN INTERNAL ISSUE FOR THE ETHIOPIANS TO RESOLVE THEMSELVES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT THE USG HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED ERITREA TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT AS A PEACE-LOVING COUNTRY THE US HOPED THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID MORE BLOODSHED. THE CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT ETHIOPIA HAD A LONG TRADITION OF SEEKING PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND THAT WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN ETHIOPIA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO AVOID BLOODSHED. (COMMENT: SOMALIA AND THE OGADEN DID NOT COME UP EVEN INDIRECTLY. END COMMENT).

4. THE CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO ETHIOPIA'S LONG HISTORY AND ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. WHILE NOTING ETHIOPIA'S SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD,

HE SAID THAT ETHIOPIA HAD NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL IN PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS. HE SAID THAT THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS NOW ATTEMPTING TO DO SO. HE SAID THAT, AS WAS THE CASE WHEN ETHIOPIA DEPENDED ON THE US FOR ITS WEAPONS, NOW ETHIOPIA NEEDED EXPERTS AND ADVISERS FOR THE WEAPONS IT RECEIVES FROM ITS PRESENT SUPPLIERS. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DISCUSSION ON ETHIOPIAN INDEPENDENCE AND ETHIOPIAN VIGILANCE OVER ITS SOVEREIGNTY HE IMPLIED THERE WAS NO DANGER FROM THE PRESENT ADVISORS. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE USG RELIED ON ETHIOPIA'S LONG HISTORY OF JEALOUSLY MAINTAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE AS AN ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD MAINTAIN IT IN THE FUTURE.

5. THE CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO THE OCCASION IN WHICH ETHIOPIA AND THE US HAD FOUGHT TOGETHER UNDER THE UN FLAG AND EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESSED THE HOPE THAT ETHIOPIA AND THE US COULD WORK AGAIN TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE. HE ASKED FOR USG UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE COMMON GOALS OF THE US AND ETHIOPIA IN THE KOREAN CONFLICT AND THE CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH EXISTED THEN AND FOR A LONG TIME BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES (COMMENT: THE INTERPRETER TOLD THE DCM AND POLCOUNS AFTER THE CEREMONY THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED KOREA. WE ARE UNABLE TO THINK OF ANY OTHER OCCASION IN WHICH THE US AND ETHIOPIA WERE COMRADES IN ARMS UNDER THE UN FLAG. US DID NOT FIGHT IN CONGO UNDER UN FLAG. END COMMENT).

6. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN RECENT OCCASIONS WHEN US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN "WARM", AND SAID HE HOPED FOR BETTER RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE AND HIS ENTIRE STAFF WOULD DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THAT END. HE NOTED THAT HE HOPED TO BUILD ON THE STEPS ACHIEVED BY THE AARON AND TSONGAS/BONKER MISSIONS. THE CHAIRMAN SAID ON THREE OCCASIONS THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE PRIVATE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR FROM TIME TO TIME. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE ALSO HOPED AND LOOKED FORWARD TO HAVING AN OPEN DIALOGUE WITH NOT ONLY THE CHAIRMAN, BUT WITH THE CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATES AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS.

7. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE HOPED THE AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE A PERSONALLY PLEASANT STAY IN ETHIOPIA DURING HIS ASSIGNMENT AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR COULD COUNT ON HIS ASSISTANCE TO MAKE HIS MISSION TO ETHIOPIA A SUCCESS.

8. THE CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY ASKING THE AMBASSADOR TO TRANSMIT HIS BEST PERSONAL WISHES TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM HE WOULD DO.

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9. COMMENT: THE TONE OF THE CONVERSATION WAS TYPICALLY  
ETHIOPIAN: COURTEIOUS, INDIRECT, REplete WITH ALLUSIONS,  
CIRCUMLOCUTIONS AND GENERALITIES. THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS  
WERE ALMOST WHISPERED, WHILE HIS EYES FOCUSSED SOMEWHERE  
IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE. WITHIN THIS ETHIOPIAN FRAMEWORK,  
MY TWO SENIOR OFFICERS, WHO ACCOMPANIED ME NOTICED A WARMTH  
AND INTEREST O THE ETHIOPIANS' PART WHICH HAS NOT CHARAC-  
TERIZED RECENT CONVERSATIONS. WE WILL SEE. END COMMENT.  
CHAPIN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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